

## ABSTRACT

[0227] Methods are provided for delivering oligonucleotide compounds into osteoclasts or osteoclast precursor cells. The compounds according to one embodiment are targeted to a nucleic acid encoding RANK and are capable of modulating the expression of RANK. Also provided are methods for modulating osteoclast differentiation by delivering such compounds into osteoclast precursor cells. Cellular delivery of the oligonucleotide compounds may be carried out by transfecting the compounds into osteoclasts or osteoclast precursor cells in the presence of a non-liposomal transfection agent. Examples of suitable non-liposomal transfection agents include FuGENE 6 and Effectene®. The disclosed methods may be advantageously applied in the discovery of diagnostics and therapeutics for bone diseases associated with osteoclast activity.

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